



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **MAYOR BREAKS GROUND ON PROJECT TO REDUCE FLOODING IN FROG HOLLOW**

*FROG HOLLOW RESIDENTS, PLAGUED BY FLOODING FOR YEARS, TO GET RELIEF FROM PROJECT THAT ALSO CREATES WETLAND*

INDIANAPOLIS – When a house or business floods, the damage can be devastating. Perhaps no neighborhood in the City has experienced the impact of heavy rains more than the Frog Hollow neighborhood. Today Mayor Greg Ballard and the Department of Public Works (DPW) broke ground on a project to reduce flooding for residents and business owners in and around Frog Hollow.

“No resident in the City should fear rain, but flooding does not only damage homes and businesses, it also can reduce property values,” said Mayor Ballard. “This RebuildIndy project is designed to address our critical infrastructure needs. I am committed to finding creative, cost-effective solutions to address the problems in flood-prone areas such as Frog Hollow to make Indianapolis a more livable city.”

Flooding problems in Frog Hollow are compounded because the neighborhood is located along Highland Creek and in the backwater pool of the White River. When the White River backs up, water flap gates close, keeping water from flowing into Highland Creek. Once the Highland Creek flow is stopped, the headwater discharging down the creek stops and pools in the neighborhood.

The Highland Creek Storm Water Diversion project will divert storm water from Highland Creek away from the neighborhood to the White River. A wetland will be created to store and filter excess storm water. The wetland will encompass 0.75 acre of land, located in the 2900 block of Bluff Road north of Troy Avenue. This wetland will include native plants and will attract desirable wildlife such as birds, ducks and butterflies. When improvements are complete, 80 percent of the water during most floods will be diverted away from the Frog Hollow neighborhood.

“This project is one of many launched this year by the City of Indianapolis in which DPW engineers are incorporating sustainable infrastructure into the design,” said Mayor Ballard. “DPW is committed to not only

fixing problems, but finding ways to make good decisions that help make Indianapolis one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest.”

The Highland Creek Storm Water Diversion, being built by Gerig-Ottenweller Contracting, LLC., costs \$1.7 million and is scheduled to be complete by Fall 2011. The project is a part of Mayor Ballard’s RebuildIndy initiative, designed to rebuild deteriorating thoroughfares, residential streets, sidewalks, and bridges, as well as address neighborhood drainage and flooding issues. RebuildIndy projects are underway across the City. For more information about the RebuildIndy program, visit [www.indy.gov/RebuildIndy](http://www.indy.gov/RebuildIndy) or follow us on Twitter @RebuildIndy. To request a RebuildIndy project in your area, call the Mayor’s Action Center at (317) 327-4MAC (4622).

By the end of 2010, DPW will have invested more than \$100 million in RebuildIndy infrastructure improvement projects across the county. The transportation improvements underway this fall are funded by the \$153.8 million investment that was approved by the City-County Council in May. If the transfer of water and wastewater to Citizens Energy Group is approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, the City will have hundreds of millions more to invest in infrastructure improvements.

The City’s creative funding model for RebuildIndy projects is attracting interest from government officials and industry leaders nationwide. Last week at the American Water Summit in Washington, D.C., Mayor Ballard shared the details of Indianapolis’ innovative plan to transfer the water and wastewater utilities to Citizens Energy Group, a non-profit charitable public trust. At the summit Mayor Ballard and Indianapolis received recognition for coming up with creative ways to address financial challenges.

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